

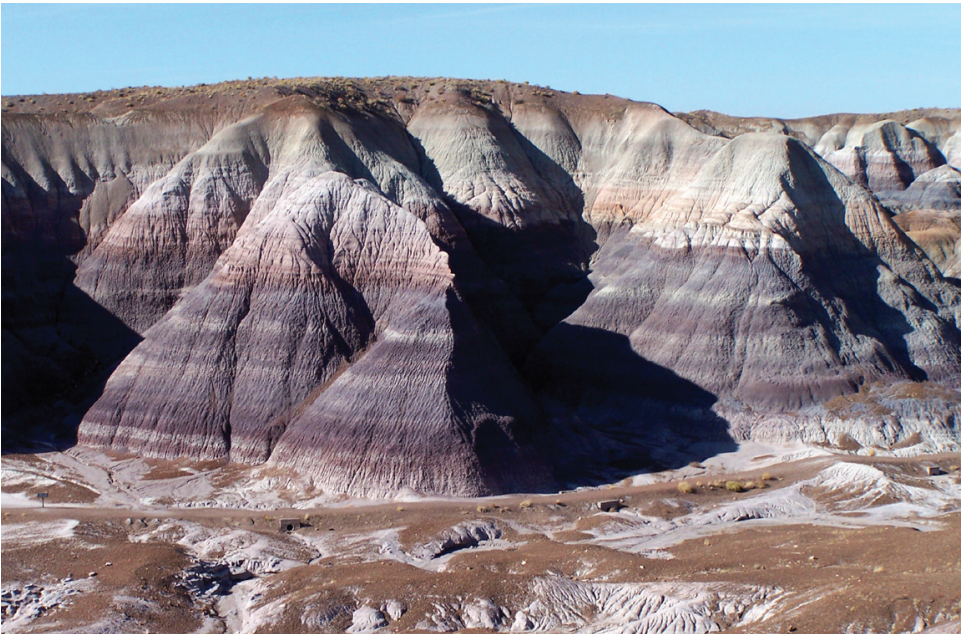
Trails and Safety at Petrified Forest National Park

Out of the Car and On the Trail

The best way to enjoy and experience Petrified Forest National Park is on foot. Designated trails range in length from less than a half-mile to three miles.

Stay on designated trails in developed hiking areas. Off-trail hiking damages the fragile grassland environment and disturbs wildlife habitat, creating unsightly “social” trails. Leaving the designated trail can also be hazardous for hikers due to loose rock and dangerous cliffs. Pets must be kept on leash at all times. Pets are not permitted in the park buildings, in Wilderness Area or on Wilderness access trails (except for service animals). Please clean up after your animal; use the trash receptacles. Bicycles are not allowed on trails or off roads at any time.

**Mile Markers begin at the park’s northern entrance off of I-40.*

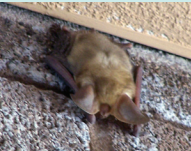


Blue Mesa Trail

	Trailhead	Length	Description
Painted Desert Rim	Tawa and Kachina Points	1-mile round trip	This trail winds through the rim woodland, a place for chance encounters of many species of plants and animals. The view of the Painted Desert is spectacular. <i>Please do not harm animals or plants in the park.</i>
Puerco Pueblo	Puerco Pueblo parking lot	0.3-mile loop	Walk amidst the remains of a hundred room village, occupied by the ancestral Puebloan people between A.D. 1250 and 1400. <i>Do not climb on the boulders or walls. Please do not touch petroglyphs.</i>
Blue Mesa	Blue Mesa sunshelter	1-mile loop Moderately strenuous	Descending from the mesa, this trail loops among petrified wood deposits and badland hills of bluish bentonite clay. Plant fossils, including delicate ferns, have been found in the sedimentary layers of Blue Mesa. <i>Please leave them for others to enjoy.</i>
Crystal Forest	Crystal Forest parking lot	0.75-mile loop	Despite more than a century of collecting, a few beautiful crystals hide in the petrified logs of Crystal Forest. <i>Please leave the petrified wood for others to enjoy. Report anyone removing petrified wood from the park.</i>
Long Logs	Rainbow Forest parking area	1.6-mile loop	Long Logs is one of the largest concentrations of petrified wood in the park. Explore this ancient log jam at the base of gray badlands. <i>Do not climb on the badland hills.</i>
Agate House	Rainbow Forest parking area	2-miles round trip	Archeologists believe that this small pueblo was occupied for a short time about 700 years ago. Seasonal farmers or traders possibly built Agate House as a temporary home. <i>Long Logs and Agate House Trails can be combined, as they start from the same trail head, for a total of 2.6 miles round trip.</i>
Giant Logs <i>Trail guide available in the Museum</i>	Behind Rainbow Forest Museum	0.4-mile loop	Giant Logs features some of the largest and most colorful logs in the park. “Old Faithful”, at the top of the trail, is almost ten feet across the base.

Safety

- Stay on the designated trails. Do not go beyond protective fencing or guardrails. Avoid cliff edges and steep slopes.
- Be aware of symptoms of high altitude sickness, including nausea, dizziness, headache, rapid heartbeat, and shortness of breath. Keep hydrated, rest, snack lightly, and avoid alcohol and cigarettes.
- Wear sunglasses with UV protection, a hat, and use sunscreen.
- The wild animals in the park can carry diseases including rabies, hanta virus, and plague. Do not handle or allow your pets near any live or dead animals and avoid nests and burrows.
- If you are injured or ill while visiting the park, contact a ranger at any visitor center facility.
- For Lost and Found, contact the Painted Desert Visitor Center, Rainbow Forest Museum, or call the park at 928-524-6228.
- Yellow emergency phones are located at Puerco Pueblo, Blue Mesa, and Crystal Forest. The park number for emergency only is 928-524-9726.



Did You Know?
There are about ten known species of bats in the park. This pallid bat is sleeping at the Painted Desert Complex. Pallid bats hunt many things, including scorpions!